

# Fire-Rescue Department Engine Brownout Plan and Lifeguard Reductions Update



Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee  
May 11, 2011  
Fire Chief Javier Mainar

# Report Focus

- 13<sup>th</sup> Monthly Report to PS&NS
- Brownout Plan
  - Workload and Response Time Statistics Update
  - Training and Inspection Impacts Adjustments
  - Restoral Plan based on Proposed FY2012 Budget
- Lifeguard Budget Reductions
  - Training Impacts Adjustments

# Brownout Plan Refresher

- Brownouts Defined
  - Temporary closure of 0-8 fire engines per day
  - Implemented in the 13 stations with more than one response unit
- Brownouts implemented on February 6, 2010 as a budget reduction measure to save \$11.5M in overtime
- Each brown-out unit saves approximately \$1.4M annually
- Today's report covers 5/1/10 though 4/30/11
  - 118,181 emergency incidents during this period
    - 3,574 fires
    - 101,825 medical
    - 12,782 other

# Statistical Summary of Brownouts

- Out-of-Service Time for Participating Engines = **42% - 99%**
- Compliance with 5 min. First Unit Arrival Response Time
  - National Standard = **90%** Fire-Rescue Interim Target = **55%**
  - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **55%**
  - City-Wide During Brownouts = **53%**
  - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **29% - 86%**
  - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **25% - 80%**
- Average Response Times (minutes/seconds)
  - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **5:03**
  - City-Wide During Brownouts = **5:11**
  - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **3:47-6:11**
  - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **3:52 - 6:43**



# Effective Fire Force

- Defined as the number of firefighters required to perform operations at a typical single family dwelling fire
  - 14-15 firefighters depending on whether an aerial ladder is deployed
  - SDFD achieves this with 3 engines, 1 truck and 1 battalion chief
- Compliance with 9 min. Effective Fire Force Arrival Response Time
  - National Standard = 90%    Fire-Rescue Interim Target = 72%
  - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **84%**
  - City-Wide During Brownouts = **80%**
  - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **50% - 100%**
  - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **29% - 100%**
- Average Effective Fire Force Response Times
  - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **6.98 minutes**
  - City-Wide During Brownouts = **7.35 minutes**

# Significant Incidents

- Structure fire at 2025 Diamond Street, 4/27/11
- Fire was well advanced when reported
- Engine 21 browned out, Truck 21 first in
- First engine arrived in 7:44 (goal 5 min.)
- Effective Fire Force established in 7:49 (goal 9 min.)
- Civilian fatality, result of lighting a cigarette while using oxygen
- Delayed arrival of extinguishment capability did not impact survivability, but impacted property loss

# Non-Emergency Impacts and Adjustments

- Reduced Manipulative Training Opportunities
  - Fewer units makes it difficult to go out-of-service for training
- Training Adjustments Made
  - Units allowed out-of-service at one time increased from 12 to 14
  - Units in Department-wide training sessions decreased from 5 to 3
  - More training delivered at fire stations or online
- Delays in Completing Fire Inspections
  - Fewer units are busier with emergency responses
  - New technology (Field Collection Unit) Program instituted
  - Department anticipates that real-time collection of reporting data will improve overdue inspection monitoring and correction
- Inspection Adjustments Made
  - Light duty staff assigned when available

# Brownout Restorals

- Mayor's Proposed FY2012 Budget provides \$8.7M
  - July 1, 2011 – Brownouts reduced from 8 to 4 per day
    - Existing brownout rotation is modified and continued
      - E40 (Rancho Penasquitos) is removed from rotation
      - E10 (College) and E44 (Mira Mesa) go from monthly rotation to every third month
      - As E44 is browned-out, they displace the crew of E38 (Mira Mesa)
      - Remaining 10 engines move from brownout rotation every other month to brownout every third month
- January 1, 2012 – Final 4 engines restored and brownouts ended



# Restoral Plan Rationale

- Most predictable
- Distributes the impacts
- Eliminate inequities
- Decreases brownout interval for all communities
- Restores Rancho Penasquitos engine
- Reunites HazMat crews at Fire Station 44 (Mira Mesa) facilitating their training and operations
- Reunites field training crews at Fire Station 10 (College) facilitating their training activities

# Lifeguard Reductions

- Remaining Impacts
  - Reduction of Relief guards
  - Reduction of Lifeguard II Training Coordinator
  - Reduction of Sergeant assigned to Scheduling
  - Reduction of Marine Safety Lieutenant
  - Reduction of Overtime Budget
- Non-Personnel
  - Overlap Training Wednesdays Eliminated
  - River Rescue Team Training Budget Cut by 50%



# LG Training Impacts from Reductions

- Loss/Reduction of Training Opportunities
  - Significant changes to Winter training plan implemented
  - Pre-shift and in-service training modules developed
  - Winter training cycle has ended
  - Reviewing impacts of loss/reduction of training over the next 60 days

Questions?